

From: Son Hawaii [son.hawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2008 10:36 PM
To: Kobayashi, Ann H.; Marshall, Barbara; Djou, Charles; Dela Cruz, Donovan M; Okino, Gary; Garcia, Nestor; Tam, Rod; Cachola, Romy; Apo, Todd K
Cc: Eng, Henry; Mayor Mufi Hannemann; City Clerk
Subject: Reject Bill 6,7 & 9; Support Bill 8: Traverse City-MI Opposes Short-Term Rentals in residential zones



“E Malama i ka Nohona Kaiaulu o O‘ahu.”

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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Dear Council Members;

The owners of illegal B&B's and TVU's have repeatedly claimed that “only” Oahu has issues with short-term rentals. Please review the attached PDF file (**Traverse City-MI Opposes Short-Term Rentals in residential zones**) that documents their propaganda is false. Visitor lodging businesses such as B&B's and TVU's located in residential zoned neighborhoods are increasingly becoming a problem for many municipalities around the country and the world.

As recommended by the Planning Commission; Please REJECT Bill 6,7 & 9, & SUPPORT Bill 8. Thank you for protecting our residential zoned neighborhoods.

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MISC. COM. 466



Vacation rental opponents voice concerns

BY MELISSA DOMSIC

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Traverse City -- There's plenty of debate over a vacation home rentals proposal in Traverse City.

Elected officials are hearing it from both sides, but mostly against a plan to allow such rentals in residential districts.

"(I've received) 30 or more e-mails and phone calls, and they keep coming in," city Commissioner Deni Scrudato said. The vast majority, she said, oppose the rentals, and she's only heard from one city resident who supports them.

Other commissioners also said they've received feedback over proposed zoning ordinance changes that would allow vacation home rentals. The rentals are not allowed under the current ordinance, according to a city attorney opinion released last fall.

The amendments are up for commission consideration on Monday.

"I'm getting e-mails and letters and phone calls," Commissioner Jim Carruthers said. "It seems like a majority of the people contacting me or commissioners ... do not want to see the weekly rentals happen."

Planning commissioners this month passed the ordinance amendments for city commission approval following a 6-to-3 vote. Opposing votes came from Mayor Michael Estes and two new planning commissioners he appointed.

Estes said he won't support the ordinance without knowing how many such rentals exist. Estimates vary, but city staff's latest count puts the number of vacation rentals in residential zones at 20.

Commissioner Jody Bergman also sits on the planning commission and voted in favor of the ordinance.

"Overall, I think that it's a group of (home owners) who are willing to be regulated," she said. "With the ordinance that has been proposed, there's also a licensing procedure which gives the city control over any problems that may arise if they're not following regulations."

City employees drafted new rules to allow the rentals after vacation homeowners spoke against the city attorney's interpretation that they're not legal in residential zones.

City attorney Karrie Zeits evaluated the current zoning ordinance at the request of Commissioner Chris Bzdok, who had been approached by concerned Central Neighborhood residents.

Bzdok said he only did so to make sure the rules were being enforced, but he's since formed an opinion on the rentals after learning more and speaking with residents and vacation home owners.

"Our neighborhoods should be lived in; they should not be to rent out on a temporary basis for business purposes," he said. "I haven't made up my mind about the ordinance, but that's the premise from which I'm proceeding."

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